

# CHRISTIAN SHELTER

Salisbury, Maryland

# A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



## GOD PROVIDES FOR A NEW FREEZER AND COOLER

In the Summer 2022 Newsletter we reported that our twenty-three (23) year old Walk-in Refrigerator and Freezer boxes serving the Kitchen had failed. Mr. Rickie Tapman, owner of Tapman's Refrigeration, with the help of Mr. Tony Gilkerson, installed temporary "loaner" condensing units on the roof to get the boxes operational again. But because the wooden floor under the walk-in units was failing, coupled with the age of the units, we knew that we had to replace the boxes with new ones on a new reinforced concrete foundation (not wood). The entire project was expensive, and the Christian Shelter did not have sufficient funds to undertake this project.

Fortunately, the Perdue Family learned of our need and gave the Shelter three significant gifts – two from Foundations and one personal. We are so very grateful to the entire Perdue Family for their response to our need. The Perdue gift was a major portion of the cost of the project, and it allowed the project to commence even though we did not have the entire amount needed to complete the walk-in box replacement project. Since the manufacturing lead time for new boxes was determined to be nearly five months (30 weeks) the Shelter's Board of Directors decided to step out in faith and order the new boxes. This allowed us to get a Spring 2023 delivery date scheduled. Since that step of faith, the Lord has provided the remainder of the money necessary to complete this project. We are so very thankful for the funding and thankful that so many have responded to the needs of the poor, homeless and hurting that the Christian Shelter serves every day.

Harper & Sons was hired as the General Contractor for the project, which involved no less than five (5) subcontractors. Once demolition began and the old wooden floor was removed, multiple trades were involved to relocate utilities that were in the way of the new footer and foundation for the concrete slab which would support the new walk-ins. Bayside Fire Protection Co. rerouted a 4" sprinkler main, Triple J Electric rerouted an electrical conduit serving a 200 amp electrical panel and Real HVAC Services rerouted a 2" natural gas line.

The manufacturer shipped the new walk-in boxes to Tapman's Refrigeration on March 23rd and they were installed by Tapman's in the Christian Shelter's kitchen on Thursday, March 30th. Wall modifications and new bulkhead and drywall work was completed as well as the necessary electrical work. During the week of April 3rd, Harper & Sons got the new flooring around the walk-in boxes ready for R & R Coatings to apply new epoxy floor coatings to the affected floor areas. Ceiling tiles, air devices and light fixtures were reinstalled. We achieved our goal to have the new walk-in boxes fully functional by April 10, 2023.

A special thanks to Harper & Sons acting as the General Contractor for this Project, to the Perdue Family, and also to Perdue, Inc. for loaning us an outside "freezer" truck for the duration of the Project which allows us to keep our frozen foods safely stored. If you would like to see the new walk-in boxes, please call the Shelter (410-749-5673) and request a tour. We would love to show you this new addition! We are blessed!

PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 →



Underside of the old removed freezer



Preparing space for new concrete pad



Getting floor ready for freezer cooler



Pouring concrete for freezer cooler

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David V. Downes  
Bryan E. Murfree  
Rita A. Plaskon  
Jeffrey C. Downes  
Carlton W. Bradshaw  
Jane A. Hoy  
Gus P. Lebois  
Mark S. Thompson

**Emeritus**  
Ted R. Evans

### Executive Director

J. Anthony Dickerson

**Attorney**  
John C. Seipp

**Accountant**  
Robert E. Holloway

This shelter  
was planned, built &  
is provided for by...  
GOD  
through  
His people

### Christian Shelter, Inc. mailing address is:

334 Barclay Street, Salisbury, MD 21804  
Phone: 410-749-LORD • Fax: 410-860-8992  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)



**H**omelessness is an urgent social issue affecting more than 500,000 people across the country. That's more than half a million people! We might feel helpless with so much suffering, but we can't deny that we share a responsibility to alleviate the problem. Homelessness is not just an economic problem – it is a social crisis that touches our deepest human values.

Through the lens of spirituality, we realize that everyone deserves a place to call home. Homelessness is not something that can be reduced to mere statistics or numbers. Each person who experiences homelessness is an individual with a unique story to tell. Whether they are living on the streets or sleeping in a car, the experience of homelessness is accompanied by feelings of fear, shame, and despair. When someone loses their home, they lose a sense of stability, a loss of identity and sense of belonging. This is where spirituality comes in.

Spirituality is about finding meaning and purpose in life. It's a way to make sense of our experiences, connecting us with our surroundings, and cultivating inner peace. A spiritual approach brings recognition of the interconnectedness of all beings. We are all part of the same universe, and each one of us has the potential for greatness. When someone experiences homelessness, it is not just their own suffering that is at stake. All of us suffer – in some way – when someone else is deprived of the basic necessities of life. By nurturing our senses of compassion, empathy, and interconnectedness, we can work to create a society that is more just, equitable, and compassionate.

Through spirituality, we can begin to understand why everyone deserves a place to call home, and how we can work towards making this goal a reality. By prioritizing the dignity and well-being of every human being, we can create a more just and compassionate world.



*J. Anthony Dickerson, Executive Director*



**VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT - LAURA HURLEY**

**W**e would like to introduce someone who has been quietly volunteering and serving the guests at the Christian Shelter. Laura Hurley is a wife, mother, a grandmother, and a Wicomico County Council Administrator, who gives of her time serving those staying at the shelter, especially families. Since 2021, Laura has volunteered at the Christian Shelter to listen, and be a source of encouragement to those in need.

Laura works in the office area of the shelter, usually greeting the guests with questions such as “tell me what’s happened to you this week, or what issues have been the most challenging for you?” At times it is difficult to motivate a person to begin a conversation, but Laura’s sincerity makes way for trusting, and she and the guest begin talking about the different possibilities for solving an issue. She says, “some of them open up and some don’t, but that’s ok.” Taking time to listen to others makes one feel valued, and this volunteer has found happiness in her desire to help others.

Before coming to the shelter, Laura had no experience working with the homeless population, but with training and supervision by shelter staff she has been able to serve those in need staying at the Shelter. Laura has the ability to connect with people. She listens to the guests and guides them as best she can. She does not judge them but rather encourages them.

We thank God for Laura’s volunteer efforts and the way she cares for His guests, and look forward to her continued involvement at the Christian Shelter.



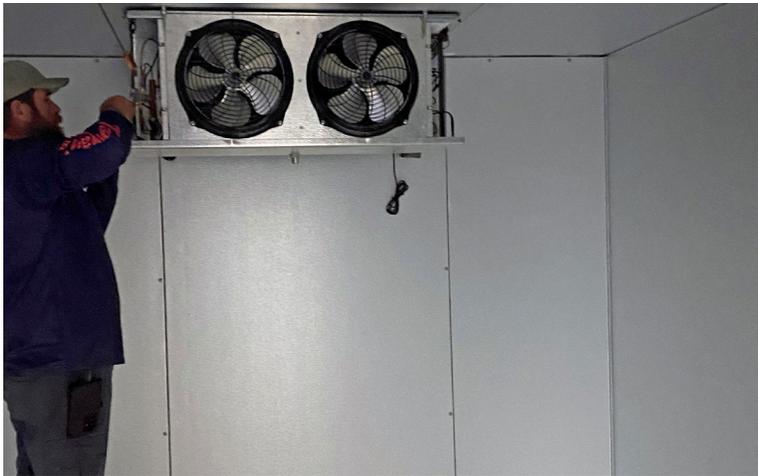
*Laura Hurley*



Concrete slab completed



Newly Installed freezer cooler units



Installing cooling units



Perdue freezer trailer



Finished freezer and cooler units



Finished cooler with new antimicrobial racks



Steven E. Brewer



**IN MEMORY OF STEVEN E. BREWER**

“We are thankful for the life of Mr. Steven E. Brewer and for his lifetime of dedicated service to the Christian Shelter and to his beloved Jesus, the Christ, in whose Hope of Glory, Steven now rests. We are blessed and thankful for Steven’s lifetime care for the homeless and poor.”

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED-SEND TO:**  
CHRISTIAN SHELTER, INC.  
334 BARCLAY STREET  
SALISBURY MD 21804

NON PROFIT ORG.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Salisbury, MD  
Permit No. 94



**REAL HVAC SERVICES ONCE AGAIN  
COMES TO THE RESCUE**

**T**he Christian Shelter has eleven HVAC Split Systems, meaning that there are eleven air handlers within the building serving eleven different zones, and each air handler has an associated condensing unit on the roof. Over the past six (6) years, Mr. Shawn Harrison, owner of Real HVAC Systems has seen to it that our oldest systems have been replaced, typically at cost. In a recent conversation with Mr. Harrison, when he learned that the Shelter had one last old HVAC system using a refrigerant (R-22) that is no longer manufactured, he declared that he wanted to replace that HVAC System with a new one at no cost to the Christian Shelter. This amounts to a \$15,000 gift. The new unit has been ordered and we anticipate that it will be installed by the time this Newsletter is published.

**CURRENT NEEDS**

Twin Size Sheet Sets  
Breakfast Meats  
Lunch Meat  
Disinfectant Spray  
Coffee, Sugar, Creamer  
Cleaners  
Laundry Detergent

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS  
TO RECEIVE ELECTRONICALLY**

**CONSIDER DONATING ONLINE AT  
[www.christianshelter.org](http://www.christianshelter.org)**